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**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Andreas MEIKE et al.

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

## MAIL STOP PCT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 23313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment in the above-referenced case. Consideration of this case in view of the amendments made herein is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims beginning on page 18 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 23 of this paper.